Amendments to the Specification:

Please replace the paragraph beginning on page 2, at line 3 with the following rewritten paragraph:

--The digital processing required in the image combining step depends on the camera locations of the captured images. When the rear nodal point is exactly the same, the image combining step comprises three stages: (1) a warping stage, where the images are geometrically warped onto a cylinder, sphere, or any geometric surface suitable for viewing; (2) an image alignment stage, where the warped images are aligned by a process such as phase correlation (Kuglin, et al., "The Phase Correlation Image Alignment Method," *Proc. 1975 International Conference on Cybernetics and Society*, 1975, pp. 163-165), or cross correlation (textbook: Gonzalez, et al., *Digital Image Processing*, Addison-Wesley, 1992); and (3) a blending stage, where the aligned warped images are blended together to form the composite image. The blending stage can use a simple feathering technique that uses a weighted average of the images in the overlap regions, and it can utilize a linear exposure transform (as described in USSN: 10/008,026, filed November 5, 2001 by Cahill et al., our docket no. 83516/THC) to align the exposure values of overlapping images. In addition, a radial exposure transform (as described in USSN: 10/023,137, filed December 17, 201 by Cahill et al., our docket 83512/THC) can be used in the blending stage to compensate for light falloff.--

Please replace the paragraph beginning on page 7, at line 29 with the following rewritten paragraph:

--Referring next to Fig. 3, the preferred cropping criterion is illustrated. The source digital images **300** overlap in overlapping pixel regions **302**. In step **206**, the source digital images are combined to form the composite digital image **304**. The cropping region **306** is then selected in step **208** according to the cropping criterion **204**. In the preferred embodiment, the cropping region **306** has the largest area of all composite digital image regions having aspect ratio L:H. In some instances, there can be more than one distinct composite digital image region having aspect ratio L:H and having maximum area, yielding multiple candidate regions for the cropping regions. In such instances, there may be a small (e.g. less than 10) or very large (e.g. more than 10) set of candidate

regions. Furthermore, in instances where there is ~~an~~ a very large set of candidate regions, the centroids of the candidate regions may form one or more path segments.--

Please replace the paragraph beginning on page 11, at line 8 with the following rewritten paragraph:

--Referring next to Fig. 8A, the step **200** of providing at least two source digital images further comprises the step ~~**804**~~ **802** of modifying the pixel values of at least one of the source digital images **800** by a linear exposure transform so that the pixel values in the overlap regions of overlapping source digital images are similar. A linear exposure transform refers to a transformation that is applied to the pixel values of a source digital image, the transformation being linear with respect to the scene intensity values at each pixel. Examples of linear exposure transforms can be found in the aforementioned Cahill, Gindele, Gallagher, and Spaulding reference.--

Please replace the paragraph beginning on page 11 after line 17 with the following rewritten paragraph:

--Referring next to Fig. 8B, the step **200** of providing at least two source digital images further comprises the step ~~**802**~~ **804** of modifying the pixel values of at least one of the source digital images **800** by a radial exposure transform so that any light falloff present in the source digital images is compensated. A radial exposure transform refers to a transformation that is applied to the pixel values of a source digital image, the transformation being a function of the distance from the pixel to the center of the image. Examples of radial exposure transforms can be found in the aforementioned Cahill and Gindele reference.--